

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSC-01 EB-07 /076 W  
----- 091883

P R 182348Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7125

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 8437

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER FRASER'S NEW CABINET

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER FRASER ANNOUNCED HIS NEW 24 MAN CABINET ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 18 AND ALSO MADE MAJOR DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES WHICH INVOLVED THE DROPPING OF SIX PERMANENT DEPARTMENTAL HEADS. THE NEW CABINET REFLECTS FRASER'S DESIRE TO SECURE TALENTED MINISTERS AND TO REWARD MEN WHO SUPPORTED HIM WHEN HE WRESTED THE LIBERAL LEADERSHIP FROM WILLIAM SNEDDEN. THE COALITION PARTIES NOW HAVE A CABINET WHICH IS SOMEWHAT MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN THE CARETAKER CABINET WHICH FRASER LED DURING THE PERIOD PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NEW MINISTERS AND THEIR PREVIOUS POSITIONS ARE OUTLINED BELOW:

THE INNER CABINET  
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PRIME MINISTER:

MR. J.M. FRASER, 45, VICTORIA, LIBERAL. PREVIOUS PORTFOLIOS  
INCLUDE DEFENCE EDUCATION AND THE ARMY SHADOW MINISTER FOR LABOR  
WHILE MR. SNEDDEN WAS OPPOSITION LEADER.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER FOR NATIONAL RESOURCES AND  
MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE:

MR. J.D. ANTHONY, 46, NSW, NCP, PREVIOUS PORTFOLIOS INCLUDE TRADE  
AND INDUSTRY PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND THE INTERIOR SHADOW MINISTRY.  
TRADE AND RESOURCES.

TREASURER:

MR. P. R. LYNCH, 42, VICTORIA, LIBERAL, PREVIOUS PORTFOLIOS  
INCLUDE LABOR AND NATIONAL SERVICE IMMIGRATION AND THE ARMY  
SHADOW MINISTRY TREASURY.

PRIMARY INDUSTRY:

MR. I. MCM SINCLAIR, 46, NSW, NCP, PREVIOUS PORTFOLIOS INCLUDE  
PRIMARY INDUSTRY SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
SHADOW MINISTRY PRIMARY INDUSTRY.

LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

SENATOR R. G. WITHERS, 51, W.A., LIBERAL, NO PREVIOUS PORTFOLIOS  
SHADOW MINISTRY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE, ENVIRONMENT  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

SENATOR I.J. GREENWOOD, 49, VICTORIA, LIBERAL, PREVIOUS PORT-  
FOLIOS, ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND HEALTH SHADOW MINISTRY ATTORNEY  
GENERAL.

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE:

SENATOR R. C. COTTON, 60, NSW, LIBERAL, PREVIOUS PORTFOLIO CIVIL  
AVIATION SHADOW MINISTRY MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AND  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS:

MR. A. A. STREET, 49, VICTORIA, LIBERAL, NO PREVIOUS PORTFOLIOS  
SHADOW MINISTRY SCIENCE CAPITAL TERRITORY.

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TRANSPORT:

MR. P.J. NIXON, 47, VICTORIA, NCP, PREVIOUS PORTFOLIOS SHIPPING  
AND TRANSPORT AND INTERIOR SHADOW MINISTRY TRANSPORT.

EDUCATION MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER IN FEDERAL AFFAIRS:

SENATOR J.L. CARRICK, 57, NSW, LIBERAL, NO PREVIOUS PORTFOLIOS  
SHADOW MINISTRIES, URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
FEDERALISM.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

MR. A.S. PEACOCK, 36, VICTORIA, LIBERAL, PREVIOUS PORTFOLIOS  
EXTERNA TERRITORIES AND ARMY, SHADOW MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

DEFENCE:

MR. D. J. KILLEN, 50, QUEENSLAND, LIBERAL, PREVIOUS PORTFOLIOS  
NAVY (REMOVED FROM MCMAHON MINISTRY IN 1971) SHADOW MINISTRIES,  
DEFENCE AND EDUCATION.

OTHER MINISTERS

SOCIAL SECURITY:

SENATOR MARGARET GUILFOYLE, 49, VICTORIA, LIBERAL, NO PREVIOUS  
PORTFOLIOS SHADOW MINISTRIES MEDIA, EDUCATION.

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

MR. R. J. ELLICOTT, 48, NSW, LIBERAL. NO PREVIOUS PORTFOLIO  
FEDERAL SOLICITOR-GENERAL, 1969-73 SHADOW MINISTRY.  
ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS.

BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS:

MR. J.W. HOWARD, 36, NSW, LIBERAL. NO PREVIOUS PORTFOLIOS.  
SHADOW MINISTRY, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COMMERCE.

POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

MR. R.V. GARLAND, 41, W.A. LIBERAL, PREVIOUS PORTFOLIOS, SUPPLY  
SHADOW MINISTRIES, UBLIC SERVICE AND CAPITAL TERRITORY.

HEALTH:

MR. R.J. HUNT, 47, NSW, NCP, PREVIOUS PORTFOLIOS, INTERIOR SHADOW  
MINISTRY, ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION.

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IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS:

MR. M.J. MACKELLAR, 37, NSW, LIBERAL, NO PREVIOUS PORTFOLIO,  
SHADOW MINISTRY, IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS.

NORTHERN TERRITORY:

MR. A. E. ADERMANN, 48, QUEENSLAND, NCP, NO PREVIOUS PORTFILIO,  
SHADOW MINISTRY, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS:

MR. R.I. VINER, 42, WA LIBERAL, NO PREVIOUS PORTFOLIO  
NO SHADOW MINISTRY.

CAPITAL TERRITORY:

MR. E.L. ROBINSON, 46, QUEENSLAND, LIBERAL, NO PREVIOUS  
PORTFOLIO SHADOW MINISTRY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

CONSTRUCTION:

MR. J.E. MCLEAY, 53, SA, LIBERAL, NO PREVIOUS PORTFOLIO  
SHADOW MINISTRY HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION.

REPATRIATION:

MR. K.E. NEWMAN, 42 TASMANIA LIBERAL NO PREVIOUS PORTFOLIO.  
NO SHADOW MINISTRY.

SCIENCE:

SENATOR J.J. WEBSTER, 50, VICTORIA, NCP. NO PREVIOUS  
PORTFOLIO, NO SHADOW MINISTRY.

3. COMMENT: AS EXPECTED FRASER DROPPED MHR DON CHIPP LIB-  
VICTORIA FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY PORTFOLIO. CHIPP IS TOO LIBERAL  
FOR FRASER. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT FRASER WANTED TO REMOVE ANDREW  
PEACOCK FROM THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO, BUT WAS UNABLE TO  
DO SO BECAUSE OF PEACOCK'S STRONG SUPPORT WITHIN THE LIBERAL  
PARTY. THE OTHER CABINET CHANGES REFLECTED FRASEJEJS DESIRE TO MOVE  
TALENTFY MEN INTO THE MINISTRY AS WELL AS TO REWARD MEN WHO  
SUPPORTED HIM WHEN HE WON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LIBERAL PARTY  
FROM WILLIAM SNEDDEN. THE KEY INDICATION OF THE LATTER FACTOR  
WAS FRASER'S DECISION TO DROP SENATOR RAE - LIB TASMANIA - A  
STRONG SNEDDEN SUPPORTER FROM THE CABINET AND HIS APPOINTMENT  
OF MHR IAN VINER, A STRONG FRASER SUPPORTER, TO THE CABINET.  
FRASER'S GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE ALSO COST SIX PERMANENT DEPARTMENT  
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HEADS THEIR POSITIONS AMONG THEM PETER WILENSKI, LABOR AND  
IMMIGRATION, AND JIM SPIGELMAN, MEDIA. BOTH THESE MEN WERE  
MEMBERS OF WHITLAM'S PRIVATE STAFF WHOSE APPOINTMENTS TO THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE WERE STRONGLY CRITICIZED. END COMMENT.  
PERCIVAL

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## Message Attributes

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